

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN:OSM

APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN

AF/C:DLCARDWELL:(INFO)

EUR/CAN:DLBLAKEMORE:(INFO)

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R 172243Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, PFOR, US, CT

SUBJECT: DDI/SCED DISPUTE

REF: BANGUI 1526

1. AF/C DIRECTOR BUCHANAN PHONED JOLIS AUGUST 17 TO DISCUSS REFTTEL AND PASS ON YOUR FEELING THAT TIME HAS NOW COME FOR HIM TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH BOKASSA. JOLIS WAS INFORMED OF YOUR MEETING WITH COPPERMAN AND EARLIER MEETING WITH BOKASSA BUT STILL REMAINS SOMEWHAT HESITANT, GIVEN CONTINUED FAILURE OF THE PRESIDENT TO RESPOND TO THE LETTER FROM FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS AND POSSIBILITY HE WOULD BE LEFT TO COOL HIS HEELS FOR WEEKS IN BANGUI BEFORE SEEING BOKASSA.

2. AFTER DISCUSSING PROS AND CONS, HOWEVER, JOLIS WAS INCLINED TOWARD OPTION OF SENDING DIRECT TELEX TO BOKASSA POINTING OUT THAT HE HAD VERY BUSY SCHEDULE OF
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UPCOMING MEETINGS BUT WAS VERY ANXIOUS TO MEET BOKASSA

AND WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO MEETING IF PRESIDENT COULD SET SPECIFIC TIME FOR APPOINTMENT. JOLIS ADDED HE WOULD FEEL SOMEWHAT REASSURED IF YOU RECEIVED SIMILAR SORT OF ASSURANCES FROM BANGUI-TANDET WHICH HE GAVE TO COPPERMAN. IF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF THEREFORE

YOU MIGHT PASS ON TO BANGUI-TANDET FACT THAT JOLIS IS VERY INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AND MAY BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIM BUT NEEDS SPECIFIC APPOINTMENT GIVEN HIS BUSY SCHEDULE.

3. ONE FACTOR IN JOLIS' OBVIOUS HESITATION IN GOING TO BANGUI IS RELUCTANCE OF BOTH DDI AND ITS CANADIAN PARTNERS TO INVEST ADDITIONAL MONIES REQUIRED TO GET BACK INTO OPERATION AND IMPLEMENT EXISTING CONTRACT. JOLIS DID NOT PRECLUDE CONTINUING OPERATIONS UNDER SOME FORMULA BUT IMPLIED THAT HIS FIRST CONCERN IS TO ESTABLISH A CLIMATE ALLOWING FOR THE LIQUIDATION OF DDI UNDER THE MOST FAVORABLE POSSIBLE TERMS. FINAL DECISION HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN MADE, HOWEVER, SINCE JOLIS SEEMED QUITE INTERESTED IN DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION OF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN BANGUI. BUCHANAN SOUGHT TO REASSURE JOLIS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A VERY DEFINITE CHANGE FOR THE BETTER SINCE THE POST-ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT JITTERS LAST WINTER AND HE WOULD BE ADVISED TO EXPLOIT OPENING TO SEE WHERE DIALOGUE MAY LEAD. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, MINING INDUSTRY, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE204651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TRBUCHANAN:OSM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760316-0360
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760845/aaaabmxr.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGUI 1526
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DDI/SCED DISPUTE
TAGS: EINV, PFOR, US, CT, SCED, DDI
To: BANGUI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006